



Arizona Department of Child Safety

Douglas A. Ducey
Governor

Gregory McKay
Director

Preliminary Report	Child Fatality	7/9/15
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1. Victim: Benjamin Lopez – 2-year-old male

2. Date of notification to DCS: 4/3/15

3. Date of fatality: 4/3/15

4. Date of determination that the fatality was the result of abuse or neglect*: 5/12/15

5. County and general location of the residence of the victim: Maricopa County – Phoenix, AZ

6. Alleged perpetrator(s) name, age and city, town or general location:

Antonia Lopez, age 22 – Phoenix, AZ

7. Circumstances of the fatality that indicate it was the result of abuse or neglect:

On April 3, 2015, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding the drowning of 2-year-old Benjamin Lopez. Benjamin was transported to the hospital in critical condition and was later pronounced deceased. Benjamin's mother, Antonia Lopez, was responsible for supervising him when the incident occurred. The investigation found that Ms. Lopez was aware Benjamin could access the pool as he had done so just two weeks prior.

8. Whether DCS has received any reports or past cases, of child abuse, abandonment or neglect involving the child or the current alleged perpetrator(s):**

DCS received one prior report involving Benjamin Lopez:

On January 21, 2015, a report was received alleging that Benjamin had been physically abused by his father. The police were called and took pictures of a red mark on Benjamin's face. It appeared as though Benjamin was hit with a hand or an object. The father was arrested for child abuse and the allegation in the DCS report was substantiated. Benjamin was assessed as being safe in his mother's care and the case was closed on March 17, 2015.

9. Actions taken by DCS in response to the fatality:

A joint investigation is being conducted with the Phoenix Police Department.

10. Actions taken regarding the child and/or other children in the home:

Following an assessment of child safety, another child was removed from the home.

11. Whether the agency is or intends to provide direct services or service referrals to the family:

The Department is providing services to the family.

*The determination that a fatality or near fatality is the result of abuse, abandonment or neglect is based one or more of the following criteria: (1) The perpetrator(s) arrest related to the incident, (2) Substantiated finding(s) linking the alleged perpetrator(s) action(s) to the fatality or near fatality and/or (3) Results of the Medical Examiner's report.



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** Information released after July 3, 2015 provides reports, or any current or past cases, of abuse, abandonment or neglect involving the child or the alleged perpetrator pursuant to A.R.S. § 8-807.01(A)(1)(e).

Posted information may be updated as new information becomes available.